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Environmental Facts

APRIL 1987

SCIENTIFIC CHEMICAL PROCESSING SITE CARLSTADT BOROUGH, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

SITE DESCRIPTION/HISTORY

The Scientific Chemical Processing (SCP) site is located at 216 Paterson Plank Road in Carlstadt Borough, Bergen County, New Jersey. The site is a corner property, bounded by Paterson Plank Road to the south, Gotham Parkway to the west, Peach Island Creek to the north and an industrial facility to the east. The site is fenced on three sides, except the north, which is bounded by the creek. The site occupies a relatively flat, sparsely-vegetated area of approximately 5.9 acres in the Hackensack Meadowlands.

Scientific Chemical Processing, Inc. used the site for industrial waste recycling operations from 1971 until October, 1980. Prior to 1971, the site was reportedly operated by others for solvent refining and recovery since the 1950's.

While in operation, the SCP facility processed wastes from chemical and other industrial manufacturing firms to reclaim marketable products. Operations at the site ceased in 1980 by order of the New Jersey Superior Court. At that time, over 300,000 gallons of wastes were stored on site in various tanks and a number of drums. During 1984, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) supervised the property owner's removal of many of the tanks, tank trailers, and drums. In October, 1985, EPA issued an Administrative Order to the property owner for the completion of

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the surface cleanup. At the present time, the property owner has removed all but one tank from the site; this tank has been secured and EPA is awaiting its ultimate treatment and disposal.

SCP REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES (RI/FS)

Now that the surface cleanup has been substantially completed, the responsible parties (see Background) can proceed with the field work associated with the Remedial Investigation. This work will include an investigation of possible soil, groundwater and surface water contamination, through the collection and analysis of samples from these media. Field work is expected to begin this month. In approximately 30 weeks, the responsible parties will submit a Draft Remedial Investigation Report (RI) to EPA, for review and comment. When EPA is satisfied that all necessary work has been completed, the report will be finalized. The Responsible Parties will then conduct a Feasibility Study (FS) in order to evaluate possible remedial alternatives. The RI/FS will be available for public review and comment. EPA will also hold a public meeting to discuss the results of the studies and to invite public comments.

BACKGROUND ON "SUPERFUND"

In December, 1980, Congress enacted the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as "Superfund". The Act authorized EPA to provide long-term remedies at hazardous waste sites, and established a \$1.6 billion fund, raised over five years from special industry taxes and general revenues, to pay for cleanups. In 1986, Congress reauthorized Superfund by enacting the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), increasing the fund to \$8.5 billion and strengthening the cleanup process.

Superfund calls for EPA to compile a National Priorities List of hazardous wastes sites which are candidates for remedial action. A priority site can be cleaned up in several ways:

- ° The responsible party(s) can clean it up voluntarily.
- ° The responsible party(s) can be forced to clean it up by legal and administrative action.
- ° Superfund monies may be used to finance the cleanup. If there is difficulty in getting the responsible party(s) to act, EPA will proceed under Superfund and seek later to recover its costs through legal action.

At all priority sites, a Remedial Investigation will be conducted. The investigation is designed to collect and analyze the data necessary to justify the remedial action and to support development of possible remedial alternatives. Then, a Feasibility Study will be conducted. This study consists of a detailed evaluation of different remedial alternatives on the basis of benefits to human health, environment, technical feasibility and costs. At the conclusion of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS), EPA will select the remedy for the site, and proceed with detailed design and construction.

Responsible Parties under Superfund include site owners and operators, as well as generators and transporters of waste which was treated, stored or disposed of at the site.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AT SCP

At the SCP site, EPA has identified 139 Responsible Parties, including owners, operators, generators and transporters. These parties were offered the opportunity to perform an RI/FS at the SCP site.

When responsible parties perform work at a Superfund site, they will generally do so pursuant to an Administrative Order, a document which sets forth legal requirements for the performance of the work. EPA has issued two Administrative Orders for the SCP site; 108 parties signed a Consent Order for the RI/FS and the remaining 31 parties were issued a Unilateral Order, requiring them to participate with the consenting parties. Although these responsible parties will be paying for the RI/FS, EPA will utilize Superfund monies to provide oversight of the studies. EPA's representative will observe field work and split samples for independent analyses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information concerning the site activities, please contact Isabel Funcia, Community Relations Specialist, Office of External Programs, at 800-346-5009. Ms. Funcia is located at EPA's Region II Office in New York City.